

CLAIMS

1. Mowing apparatus comprising, in combination: first, second, and third mowers; and a tow frame for ganging the mowers, with the tow frame including a towing tongue adapted to be removably connected to a towing vehicle for being towed in a towing direction, with the first and second mowers being pivotably connected to the towing tongue about a front axis, with the front axis being generally perpendicular to the towing direction, with the first mower being pivotably connected to the towing tongue about a first side axis parallel to and spaced from the towing direction and the second mower being pivotably connected to the towing tongue about a second side axis parallel to and spaced from the towing direction and to the first side axis, with the third mower being pivotably connected relative to the first and second mowers about a mid axis, a swivel axis perpendicular to the mid axis, and a pivot axis perpendicular to the mid axis and the swivel axis, with the third mower located intermediate and behind the first and second mowers in the towing direction.

2. The mowing apparatus of claim 1 with the tow frame including a mid link having first and second ends, with the first end of the mid link pivotably mounted to the first mower about the first side axis, with the second end of the mid link pivotably mounted to the second mower about the second side axis, with the third mower being pivotably connected to the mid link.

3. The mowing apparatus of claim 2 with the third mower further being pivotably connected relative to first and second mowers about a rear axis, with the rear axis being parallel to and spaced from the mid axis.

4. The mowing apparatus of claim 3 with the tow frame including a rear link, with the third mower being pivotably connected to the rear link about the rear axis, with the mid link pivotably connected to the rear link about the mid, swivel, and pivot axes.

5. The mowing apparatus of claim 4 with the tow frame including a pivot link including a first collar and a second collar extending perpendicular to the first axis, with the first collar defining the mid axis and the second collar defining the pivot axis.

6. The mowing apparatus of claim 5 with the tow frame including a swivel having a U-shape including a pair of ears extending from an interconnection and a pin extending through the pair of ears and the second collar and defining the pivot axis, with the rear link including a pin extending through the interconnection and defining the swivel axis.

7. The mowing apparatus of claim 6 with the mid link including a pair of ears, with the tow frame further including a pin extending through the pair of ears of the mid link and the first collar and defining the mid axis.

8. The mowing apparatus of claim 7 with the rear link being of a generally U-shape and having first and second legs terminating in collars which are aligned and spaced from each other, with the collars of the rear link defining the rear axis.

9. The mowing apparatus of claim 8 with the mowers each including a pair of front wheels mounted by mounting brackets, with the tow frame further including first and second pins extending through the mounting brackets and the collars of the rear link and defining the rear axis.

10. The mowing apparatus of claim 9 with the mowers being rotary mowers and each including a blade rotatable about a vertical axis, with the mowers each including a pair of rear wheels.

11. The mower apparatus of claim 4 with the tow frame including a front link, with the front link being pivotally mounted to the towing tongue by the front axis, with the first and second mowers being pivotally connected to the front axis, with the first and second mowers being pivotally connected to the front link by the first and second side axes.

12. The mower apparatus of claim 11 with the tow frame including first and second side links, with the first link being pivotally mounted to the front link by the first side axis, with the second link being pivotally mounted to the front link by the second side axis.

13. The mower apparatus of claim 12 with the front link terminating in first and second collars, with each of the first and second side links including a pair of ears and a pin extending through the pair of ears and the collar of the first link and defining the side axis.

14. The mowing apparatus of claim 13 with the mowers each including a pair of front wheels mounted by mounting brackets, with the tow frame further including first and second pins extending through the mounting brackets and trailing ends of the first and second side links.

15. The mower apparatus of claim 6 with the tow frame including means for selectively physically restraining pivotable movement about the pivot axis.

16. The mower apparatus of claim 2 with the mid link including a carrier adapted to carry common components of the first, second and third mowers.

17. The mowing apparatus of claim 1 with each of the first, second and third mowers including an indicator for indicating that the mower is operating.

18. The mowing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising, in combination: a control box including a control circuit for starting or stopping operation of the first, second and third mowers; and a handheld remote control device actuating the control circuit of the control box.

19. The mowing apparatus of claim 17 with each of the first, second, and third mowers including internal combustion engines including a starter, with the control circuit including a timer actuating a starter solenoid for actuating for a limited time the starters of the internal combustion engines.

20. The mowing apparatus of claim 19 with the internal combustion engines further including a choke, with the control circuit including a timer actuating for a limited time a choke actuator actuating the choke, with the control circuit including a temperature sensor for blocking actuation of the choke actuator when the internal combustion engine is warm.

21. The mowing apparatus of claim 20 further comprising, in combination: a fuel tank for the internal combustion engines, with the control circuit further including a fuel solenoid valve for controlling fuel flow to the internal combustion engines.

22. Mowing apparatus comprising, in combination: first, second, and third mowers; a tow frame for ganging the mowers, with the tow frame adapted to be removably connected to a towing vehicle for being towed in a towing direction; a control box including a control circuit for starting or stopping operation of the first,

second and third mowers; and a handheld remote control device actuating the control circuit of the control box.

23. Control circuit for an internal combustion engine including a starter, with the control circuit including a timer actuating a starter solenoid for actuating for a limited time the starter of the internal combustion engine.